GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1334
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2010
BROADCASTING REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI)/National Broadcasting Authority (NBA);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purpose and the terms of references thereof; and

(c) the time by which the BRAI/NBA is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. JATUA)

(a) to (c) : Yes Sir, the Ministry is engaged in consultations with the different stakeholders with a view to build a consensus on setting up of an independent and autonomous body to look into the broadcasting sector. One such proposal was contained in the draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007 available on this Ministry's website www.mib.nic.in. The draft Bill, inter-alia, provides terms of reference, objectives, functions, powers and composition of the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulatory Authority. A Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 27th November, 2009 to hold wide ranging consultations with stakeholders to understand their perspective on the need, scope, jurisdiction, organizational structure, powers and functions of an independent Broadcast Regulator and the issues relating to regulation of content and furnish its recommendations to the Government. The Task Force includes two representatives each of broadcasting associations like Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), News Broadcasters Association (NBA) and Broadcast Editors' Association (BEA) along with the Ministry officials. The Task Force has held consultations with other broadcasting associations, namely Cable Operators Federation of India, MSO Alliance, DTH Association, IPTV Forum, Association of Radio Operators of India as also with CII, ASSOCHAM and FICCI to address concerns expressed by various sections in the media on functional and financial autonomy of the Regulator as also the mechanism of dealing with complaints relating to content issues in the draft Bill. It also held discussions with media experts, members of the civil society, Resident Welfare Associations, academia and consumer groups. It has also elicited the views of statutory bodies like National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Commission for Protection of Child Rights(NCPCR). The report of the Task Force is awaited. In view of this, no timeline has been set.